

Walking & senses

Could walking be more than visual?

Initial Observations

At Poole Quay we noted people following lines and patterns on the floor almost subconsciously. We watched children walk and how they seemed fascinated with the ground beneath them. We noticed how texture was used to delineate different uses of the pavement – such as pedestrian crossings. This got us thinking – could the sensory potential of walking be extended?

Our Questions

- Is sensory information picked up by our feet as we walk?
- Could more sensory information be picked up by our feet?
- Could this information be used to create emotional response, relay information or create a more exciting walking experience?
- How aware are we of our surroundings as we walk?
- Which senses do we use to help navigate?
- How conscious or subconscious is the act of walking?
- Why do people seem to follow lines?

Further Research

- Experimentation with emotional reaction to different textures underfoot.
- Currently existing paving textures and treatments available for use.

Possible Outcomes

- The incorporation of texture into existing walkways to create a more enjoyable walking experience.
- Using texture within shops to generate emotional responses in customers.

Benefits

- Turning walking into a more enjoyable mode of transport.
- Encouragement of learning in children by creating a more multi-sensory environment through use of colour & texture in the design of walkways.
- Increased safety by applying colour, shape and texture further in walkways.
- Providing a new insight into an area through the use of texture and associated emotional responses.

Exploding Wallets

Are our wallets too full?

Initial Observations

We watched people at supermarket checkouts stuffing receipts into their wallets, struggling to find notes amongst the cascade of paper and leafing through card after card looking for the correct combination for this particular transaction.

Our Questions

- Why are wallets so full?
- Do people want full wallets?
- Would they prefer more organised wallets?
- What purposes do receipts serve?
- Do people use their receipts?
- Do people use their receipts for anything other than their primary use?
- Do people use their discount cards?
- Are we naturally a 'hoard' culture?
- Is there order in disorder?
- Do receipts need to be printed?

Further Research

- Identity theft.
- Digital receipt schemes.
- Chip and Pin Technology.

Possible Outcomes

- Replacement of printed receipts with digital alternatives such as an e-receipt.
- The aggregation of all of a person's plastic cards into a singular object or device.

Benefits

- Reducing receipts means you won't have to dispose of receipts (which usually requires shredding or burning due to their vulnerability to identity theft).
- Reduction of paper used in the printing of receipts helps in terms of cost and also sustainability.
- Stops the hassle of having to find the correct card in a full wallet when trying to complete a transaction.
- Could make wallets smaller and slimmer so that they aren't so bulky, and a nuisance, in people's pockets.

Burning Lips

How hot is that tea?

Initial Observations

Sat in a coffee shop, we watched as people brought a cup of tea up to their lips. Invariably, people sipped only to realise their tea was still too hot and return it to the table. This sparked our thoughts on the perception of temperature.

Our Questions

- How do we perceive temperature?
- Do we perceive temperature accurately?
- In what circumstances do we need an awareness of temperature?
- How do people who are unable to perceive temperature perceive it?
- Is there a specific temperature range at which people will drink hot drinks?

Further Research

- Thermal sensitive inks
- Thermometer technologies
- Natural visual signs of temperature.

Possible Outcomes

- Thermal sensitive ink applications to heated drink containers as a visual indicator of heat/temperature.
- Integration of simplified thermometers into smaller everyday items that won't be yet-another-thing that people have to carry.

Benefits

- By providing a visual element to temperature it should be easier to judge when a beverage is at a temperature ideal for you, dependent on personal preferences the user has.
- Negation of the need to test temperatures by using our body parts.

Walking Safely

Do you feel safe?

Initial Observations

We noticed that at night time we felt more uncomfortable walking through Bournemouth than in the day. We then began to notice people seemed to be more conscious of their surroundings and those who passed them by when walking at night time.

Our Questions

- Do people feel safer walking in day light than at night?
- What problems do people face when walking alone?
- Why are people anxious walking at night?
- Which groups of people feel most comfortable/ uncomfortable?
- Where do people feel most uncomfortable?
- Do people feel vulnerable?
- What is done to help people safer walking night?

Further Research

- Surveying vulnerable groups to see their perceptions of safety.
- Researching current safety schemes in action in real-life

Possible Outcomes

- The creation of schemes that don't require devices to provide the vulnerable with a feeling of safety.
- Alternative devices and systems that don't require a large amount of input from a user

Benefits

- If being attacked, current devices take time, and are awkward, to be used. Our solution would aim to remove this obstacle to safety.
- We also hope to make the vulnerable feel safer in areas where they need not be anxious or afraid.

What is a shoe?

Are our shoes just shoes?

Initial Observations

Our initial observations came as Pete realised he needed to replace his worn out shoes. When we thought about this we realised that the most likely result was that these shoes would be thrown away. We then realised outworn shoes, although they could not be donated or worn again, could potentially still have a wide variety of uses and opportunities for recycling.

Our Questions

- What materials make up a shoe?
- Could the individual materials in shoes be recycled?
- How do shoes get worn out?
- How often do people throw away shoes?
- At what stage do shoes become completely un-wearable?
- What opportunities are there to recycle shoes?
- How could people be encouraged to recycle shoes?

Possible Outcomes

- A new recycling scheme for shoes with a clear view of how it would be used once recycled.
- A guide suggesting alternative uses for shoes once they have been worn out beyond use.

Benefits

- Through stimulating re-use and recycling of shoes we can reduce general wastage.

Further Research

- Finding out what a shoe is made of.
- Experimentation with alternative shoe uses.
- Current shoe recycling schemes.